

The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

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EDWARD E. COOPER, MANAGER

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1900.

THE AFRO-AMERICAN COUNCIL.

There can be nothing but words of praise and commendation for the dignified and conservative manner in which the Afro-American Council did the work of its annual meeting recently held in Indianapolis. It was by far the best meeting that the organization has held since its creation in Rochester, New York several years ago. In representation it was surprisingly large when one takes into consideration the fact that it is no longer a brand new scheme with all the attraction that novelty commands. In the intellectual make-up of those who participated in the proceedings, it was a great improvement over its other annual sessions. It was singularly free from the nonsensical, rabid and extremely radical tone and expression of so many conventions which have been held by colored men in years gone by. In short the gathering was all that every thoughtful colored man wanted it to be and its address to the country is an able, sensible and conservative document, stating the case of the Negro as it should be stated in a calm, dignified and manly way.

Nothing that was done by the convention commends it more to the judgement of thoughtful men more than its refusal to be turned into a politically partisan gathering. Any such step would have been fatal and would have given the National Council a set back from which, perhaps, it would never have recovered. It would have been the cause for driving away from future meetings many useful men who do not wish to join in political wrangles outside of political conventions. Furthermore, any political expression given out by such a body as the Afro-American Council can win no votes for any party because the Council would forfeit the respect of all honest men because by going into politics it would be dishonest by violating one of its cardinal principles and its organic law. We have no doubt that

like all large bodies of colored men, the representatives who met at Indianapolis were Republicans in the proportion of ten to one, yet it would have been exceedingly poor policy in these men to have forced any partisan political expression from the Convention that would have driven away the men who did not agree with them in politics. There are good men in all parties and the Negro needs all of his strong forces just at this time to get together and fight together for the things upon which his very existence depends—liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The Colored American congratulates the Council on its good work and its President on his address. We hope that the Council will not get into politics as long as there is so much other important work for it to do. Let the men who compose these annual meetings have their political pow wows at home before they come to the meetings of the Council, or after they return to their respective States when the work of the Council is finished. Let the Council be kept as a common ground where all our men of character, intellect and high purpose may meet and discuss the Negro's welfare regardless of political affiliations.

Talk about business. Here it is for you. The American Eagle, an influential Afro-American newspaper of St. Louis, Mo., remarks:

"As a business proposition you should vote the democratic ticket."

In another column in this issue of The Colored American an abbreviated account is given of the Annual Session of the Grand United Order of True Reformers which met at the headquarters in Richmond, Va., at their hall. The history of this Order is wonderful indeed. To read of the great progress it has made in the last twenty years creates doubt in the minds of those who are not members of the Order, who are not acquainted with the internal workings of the Order and who do not know of its great achievements and accomplishments. The President and Grand Worthy Master, Rev. William L. Taylor, in delivering his opening address covered the work of one year and minimized it to a ten minute statement. Since the last annual session of the Order an increase of 226 new Foundations, of 126 Rosebuds, 462 E Class members, 670 B Class members and a total increase of the Fountain membership of more than 15,000 was shown. The True Reformers is by all odds the strongest financially and the most successfully operated concern of the race. It is conducted on a strictly business basis, and a visit to the headquarters will show that all business is transacted on strictly banking principles. Its record is one which not only its members but the entire race should be proud of. Score one more for the Grand United Order of True Reformers.

Bishop Henry M. Turner, the senior bishop of the A. M. E. Church, is getting a large share of public attention at this time. The bishop is a big brainy man and has always occupied a seat in the middle of the stage. He has for thirty-eight years stood for the race, first, last and all the time. He was a fearless champion for the Negro when some of his critics were in their swaddling clothes. The Colored American believes that when the great and good bishop is ready he will give the reasons for the faith that is within him.

The Colored Citizen is a new journalistic bark, issued at Memphis, Tenn. It is now an interesting sheet, but a trifle heavy at the mast head.

Hope for the Negro.

Editor Colored American:—I heartily endorse the course of your valuable journal on all race matters, that is touching the real state of affairs, and enjoy your timely and sensible editorials on all questions. I believe you are fully competent to give a reason for every hope you have touching the future of the American Negro, and I certainly appreciate your roseate haven for the Negro's future in America. And now, having read and re-read so much from an optimistic view, all of which I respect, I desire through the columns of your able journal and from your fertile brain, a statement of facts, upon which you base your hopes of the Negro's future in America. I am certain that such would be interesting and instructive, and will do much good in the field of doubt and fear.

I am respectfully yours,

R. H. BURNY.

Monongahela City, Pa.

The above communication fully explains itself. We tip our hat in acknowledgement of the complimentary reference to our efforts in behalf of the race. We are happiest when fighting the battles of our race. The editorial columns of The Colored American aim to state the case of the race, not as an optimist, but fairly, giving a reason for the faith within us.

The questions being addressed to us from all sections of the country by our subscribers and readers, unmistakably demonstrate the fact that our people are thinking along right lines. Intelligent thinking leads to intelligent action. We can only give the outlines of the fact upon which we base our hopes for the Negro's future in America.

In the first place, a race like an individual, is more contented and therefore capable of larger results in its home than elsewhere, especially when it has done its full share in the establishment of the home. The Negro was brought to America very soon after the white man secured a foothold and established himself here, against the consent of the aborigines. The Negro was brought here against his own consent. The red man has never fully accepted the white man's civilization, although the white man took possession of him and his country. The black man has fully accepted the white man's civilization, and has proven himself as patriotic and as devoted to the welfare of America as the veriest white man here. The Negro's blood has freely flowed upon the field of every battle waged for the freedom, union and honor of this country. Why then should we not believe that the Negro has a brilliant future in America? He is a part and parcel of the body politic, noliens, volens.

Granted that many rights heretofore accorded us in certain sections are now being withdrawn or denied; granted, that in certain other places heretofore regarded as cities of refuge, we are being smitten, as it were, in the houses of our friends; granted, that many a former friend to us has joined the great majority, or is at least dead to us, yet notwithstanding all this, the future for us in America is brighter than anywhere else, for the reason that here character, brain, pluck, enterprise, accomplishments are achievements respected and honored when possessed by a colored man relatively as much as when possessed by a man of any other race or nationality.

We must expect great things for our race in this country, and prepare ourselves for their enjoyment. The white man who berates us should remember that if the United States currency he has in his pocket does not bear the gen-

uine signature of a colored man, it is a worthless counterfeit; he should remember that every stamp that he uses to forward his mail throughout this country is issued by a colored man; he should remember that every real estate deed recorded in the nation's capital is recorded by a colored man; he should remember that the most indigenous and loyal citizen in this country is a colored man.

A glance at the opinion page of the average American newspaper about these times would induce an intelligent foreigner to believe that the chief occupation of Americans is politics. This too, notwithstanding our great progress and achievements in science, commerce, industry, etc.

We point with pride to the Hart Farm School as indicating the capacity of one great teacher to lift the youth of the race out of unfavorable environments and to place them in the upward path to a life of usefulness, independence and dignity.

Here is an institution originated and developed in our midst which promises unlimited power for social progress and for the development of human character and capacity from the least promising and most hopeless and helpless element of our community life. All this has been done so modestly, so bravely, so effectively and with such devotion to all that is manly and worthy as to make it seem more like the growth of ages with unlimited resources of men and means than the creation of one individual, within less than three years, unaided and alone.

No one can read the articles in this issue upon this unique institution without perceiving that a new star of hope and help of the first magnitude has risen for the neglected children of our people who dwell in cities, and which furnishes a living illustration of Victor Hugo's saying—"That whoever opens a school, closes a prison."

Miss Lewis at the Thurber Conservatory

Miss Addie Lewis, daughter of Prof. J. Henry Lewis is visiting her uncle in New York City, and while there she is taking a special course in piano technique at the National Conservatory of Music; and her instructor reports very promising results. Miss Lewis will return to Washington about October 1, and form a limited class for piano instruction.

Mrs. Lavender formerly Miss Emma Johnson of 2439 P street n. w., has returned from a month's visit to her husband at Uniontown Pa., where the latter is employed. While at Uniontown Mr. and Mrs. Lavender were pleasantly entertained as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Phil. Johnson, 23 Grant street that city.

One of the most active delegates who attended the late National Negro Business League which met in Boston, Mass., was Dr. James E. Shepard of Raleigh, N. C., Mr. Shepard is one of the best known young men of that State, and was Chief Clerk under Recorder H. P. Cheatham during Mr. Cheatham's first year as Recorder of Deeds. The Doctor is now at his old home in Raleigh where he is doing herculean services for the party. His speech before the National Negro Business League at Boston was one of the most pointed and effective of any delivered. Dr. Shepard will take part in the present campaign and will make some speeches in the north and east.